

VII. *A few Observations on the Synonymy of Tinea (?) alpicella, and Zelleria saxifragæ, (n. sp.).* By H. T. STANTON, F.R.S., V.P. Ent. Soc., &c.

[Read 17th February, 1868.]

IN the collection of European *Micro-Lepidoptera* received from Herr Mann, of Vienna, in 1849, were two specimens of an insect sent as *Æcophora alpicella*, F.v.R. Believing this to be then undescribed, I gave the following brief description of it in the Appendix to my Supplementary Catalogue, published in 1851—thus, at p. 18:—

“TINEA ALPICELLA (*Æcophora! alpicella*, (F.v.R.), Mann *in litt.*). Perhaps hardly a true *Tinea*, the palpi too long and slender; anterior wings white, with some fuscous scales along the subcostal and subdorsal nervures, and the nervures at the apex of the wing also marked with dark scales; on the disk before the middle of the wing is an oblique pale fuscous streak, and a spot of the same colour at the end of the discoidal cell; cilia white, with some black and fuscous scales towards the apex. Exp. 7 lines.”

From better-marked specimens I now see that I might have added, that the oblique pale fuscous streak before the middle is continued along the fold to the base of the wing.

In the same year, Herrich-Schäffer figured the same insect as *Alpicella*, No. 359;—the oblique streak *before* the middle and the breadth of the anterior wings clearly represent the above-mentioned insect.

The letter-press treating of the insect figured did not appear till 1855, and by that time Dr. Herrich-Schäffer had become acquainted with another insect, which, though generically quite distinct, he confused with the original *alpicella*, apparently reputed it the female. At the commencement of his description, vol. v., p. 282, he says:—“On the anterior wings are *ill-defined pale brown spots*, a longer one in the medial longitudinal line *before* the middle, obliquely below it *more to the base one in the fold*, and one *beyond it* at two-thirds of the length of the wing.” All this, especially the characters printed it italics, points conclusively to the species figured in his work and described in my Supplementary Catalogue.

But he then proceeds—"Quite fresh female specimens, which Professor Frey took in the Engadine, at a height of 5200 feet, are distinguished by their wings being *much narrower*, and the anterior are *milk white*, with coarse black dots, which are placed in four irregular longitudinal rows, the oblique fascia in the middle is *blacker, more defined, and is prolonged as a brown shade in the apex of the wing.*" Here all the characters italicised point to a new species, and strangely enough, when speaking of the palpi, Herrich-Schäffer remarks, "in the female the third joint of the palpi is rather club-shaped, *as in the genus Zelleria,*" and was thus on the very point of discovering that the two insects were generically distinct.

In 1856 Herrich-Schäffer figured in his *Neue Schmetterlinge*, Heft I. fig. 45—as "a very distinctly marked female of *Swammerdamia alpicella* from the Alps"—the new species which I have no hesitation in referring to the genus *Zelleria*. This figure is a remarkably good one, except that two dark streaks are represented near the base along the fold and below the subcostal nervure, and my specimens do not show any such streaks, only a slight cloud at the base of the costa.

When I first saw this *Zelleria*, I believed it identical with the *Zelleria fasciapennella*, Logan, and it would appear that I so determined a specimen for Professor Frey. Frey's *fasciapennella* is, however, judging from his description of the markings in the apical cilia, clearly identical with the insect figured by Herrich-Schäffer in his *Neue Schmetterlinge*.

On comparing bred specimens of this Alpine *Zelleria*, with Scotch specimens of *Z. fasciapennella*, the differences between the two are sufficiently obvious. The Alpine *Zelleria* is a smaller, neater, whiter insect, the medial fascia starts more obliquely from the inner margin, and does not reach the subcostal nervure, so that no complete fascia (as in the Scotch insect) is formed, and the two dark lines round the apex in the cilia are sharply and distinctly marked, whereas in the Scotch *Z. fasciapennella* we see scarcely a trace of any such markings; besides this, the Alpine species has the posterior wings paler and more pointed.

At the end of May, 1865, Herr Ernst Hofmann discovered on the Kaiserberg, near Oberaudorf, a larva feeding in the heart of *Saxifraga aizoon*, of which he kindly sent me two, one of which was figured by Miss Thomson. From the larvæ he collected in 1865 only a single crip-

pled imago was reared, but in 1866 he was more fortunate and several specimens of the new *Zelleria* were reared, for which I now propose the name *Saxifragæ*. Its synonymy will be as follows:

ZELLERIA SAXIFRAGÆ, Stainton.

*Zelleria fasciapennella*, Frey (*non* Logan, *nec* Stainton).

*Swammerdamia alpicella*, Herrich-Schäffer, Neue Schmett. fig. 45.

*Swammerdamia alpicella* ♀, Herrich-Schäffer, Schmett. von Europa, v. p. 282, (*non* ♂, *nec* fig. 359).

It will now be interesting to ascertain if our Scotch species, the original *fasciapennella*, Logan, is also attached to one of the Saxifragæ, a point which I commend to the attention of Scotch Entomologists.